

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from said records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user

associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file; and

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user.

Claim 2 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the internet.

Claim 3 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A computer system for providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising computer instructions for:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

storing said information; and sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation; allowing the user to search for one or more records; allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from said records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file; and

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to

access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user.

Claim 10 (original): The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the Internet.

Claim 11 (original): The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.

Claim 12 (original): The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

Claim 13 (original): The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

Claim 14 (original): The computer system of Claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

Claim 15 (original): The computer system of claim 9, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The computer system of Claim 9, wherein a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium, comprising computer instructions for: providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from said records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected

privacy level for each said field, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file; and

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user.

Claim 18 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the Internet.

Claim 19 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.

Claim 20 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

Claim 21 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

Claim 22 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

Claim 23 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from said records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file; and

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user.

Claim 26 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the Internet.

Claim 27 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.

Claim 28 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

Claim 29 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

Claim 30 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

Claim 31 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A method of providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising the steps of:

    providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from said records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels, wherein the electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file; and

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic

business card file web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A computer system for providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising computer instructions for:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from said records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said

setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels, wherein the electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file; and

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium, comprising computer instructions for:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from said records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels, wherein the electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file; and

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from said records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels, wherein the electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file; and

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

editing the electronic business card to permit a temporary location pointer to the user.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): The computer system of claim 9, further comprising:

editing the electronic business card to permit a temporary location pointer to the user.

Claim 39 (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic business card file Web site is implemented by use of two front-end web servers and a database server that is accessed by the two front-end web servers.

Claim 40 (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public by selecting a Private icon, Semi-Private icon, or Public icon, respectively, for a corresponding field in the electronic business card file.

Claim 41 (new) The computer system of claim 9, wherein the electronic business card file Web site is implemented by use of two front-end web servers and a database server that is accessed by the two front-end web servers.

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Claim 42 (new) The computer system of claim 9, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public by selecting a Private icon, Semi-Private icon, or Public icon, respectively, for a corresponding field in the electronic business card file.

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